

WEALDEN SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTNERSHIP



Dear Member

Support for Dementia Sufferers and their Carers

Older People's Forums such as ours exist to provide help, advice and support for the over 50s across a range of issues within their local area.

One issue that is coming up time and time again is the gap that exists between the care and support for dementia sufferers in the early stages of the disease, when they are referred by their GP to an NHS-run Memory Clinic, and the care they receive when their condition worsens and they become the responsibility of the Adult Social Care system.

We are becoming aware of a significant number of examples of dementia patients and their carers, particularly those who have to fund their own care, who are falling through this gap when medical help is no longer deemed appropriate in their case. In other words, just at the point when more help is needed, many people are finding it difficult to find it. This seems to be a particular problem in Wealden, where there is a shortage of respite care facilities.

In order for us to be able to take up this problem with the health and social care authorities, we are writing to all our members, in an attempt to collect evidence that we can use to highlight this problem and provide examples of where the system is failing. We believe that there are many stories that are not being heard of people not knowing who to turn to when their need for respite care is not being met.

If you have experienced problems in this area, do please get in touch with us by filling in the form on the reverse of this letter. Anything you tell us will of course be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Yours sincerely,

Wealden Senior Citizens' Partnership

PLEASE RETURN THE FORM IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED TO THE SECRETARY,
WSCP, 5 RECTORY FIELD, HARTFIELD, TN7 4JE

IF YOU WOULD PREFER TO TALK TO SOMEONE DIRECTLY ABOUT YOUR
PROBLEM, PLEASE GIVE US YOUR NAME AND CONTACT NUMBER AND WE WILL
GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU.

**WSCP is a member of ESSA – the East Sussex Seniors' Association –
“The Voice of Older People”**





SUPPORT FOR DEMENTIA SUFFERERS AND THEIR CARERS

If you have had a problem in obtaining the care and support you need either for yourself or for someone with dementia for whom you care, please do tell us about it.

1. Details of the support/care needed: _____

2. Is that support/care now being provided? YES/NO*
3. If so, how long did it take for this to be put in place? _____
4. Did the problem in obtaining care/support arise after you were discharged from the care of the NHS? YES/NO*
5. Is rolling respite one of the services provided? YES/NO*
6. If so, which facility is used for respite care? _____
7. Is day care one of the services provided? YES/NO*
8. If so, which facility provides the day care? _____
9. Did you previously know that you are entitled to regular respite and day care services? YES/NO*
10. When trying to obtain support/services, did you contact Social Care Direct: YES/NO*
11. Please tell us about your experience with Social Care Direct e.g: were they able to help you in finding the care/support you needed? _____

12. Do you pay for all of your care/services? YES/NO*

*Please delete as appropriate

Information provided above will be collated with that received from others and used anonymously to support our efforts to obtain a more efficient referral system between the NHS and Adult Social Care. No individual will be identified in our evidence. However, it may prove useful for us to talk to some of the people providing this evidence. If you would be prepared to talk to us about this, could you please give us your name and a contact number.—Thank you so much.

Your Name: _____ Your Tel.No. _____